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Letter dated 14 October 2010 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Oman submitted pursuant to resolution 1624 (2005) (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Chair
Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

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Annex

Letter dated 27 August 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 29 July 2010 attaching a draft report of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on its focused visit to the Sultanate of Oman, conducted on the Committee's behalf by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate from 21 to 24 October 2009, and inviting my Government to make additional comments.

In this regard, I have the honour to enclose herewith additional comments from my Government in connection with this report (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Fued **Al-Hinai**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Enclosure

[Original: Arabic]

Response from the National Counter-Terrorism Committee of Oman to questions relating to Security Council resolution 1624 (2005)

Response to question one:

Numerous legal measures in the Sultanate of Oman are designed to prevent incitement to or perpetration of terrorist acts, as set forth below:

1. Oman has become a party to the majority of regional and international counter-terrorism instruments that criminalize incitement to terrorist acts, including the Arab Counter-Terrorism Convention, United Nations counter-terrorism instruments, the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism and the Gulf Cooperation Council Counter-Terrorism Agreement.

2. On 23 January 2007, Oman promulgated a counter-terrorism law that includes articles that criminalize incitement to perpetrate terrorist acts, with penalties that include life imprisonment.

3. The Omani Penal Code, article 92, criminalizes any incitement to crime and any direct involvement in the perpetration or promotion of a crime. Incitement means persuading or attempting by any means to persuade another to commit a crime, and the Code considers that such incitement is equivalent to the perpetration of the crime.

4. Oman intends to promulgate legislation to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Response to question two:

Oman is taking a number of measures that are designed to prevent the provision of a safe haven to persons who have been proven to be involved in incitement to terrorist acts, including the following:

1. Inclusion on the list of persons who may not enter or reside in Oman. In agreement with their own countries, when the residency in Oman of persons who have been proven to be involved in incitement expires they are asked to leave the country and included on that list.

2. Any person who is proven to belong to an outlawed or extremist organization is forbidden to hold any meetings or seminars in Oman.

3. The relevant States are given any information on activity that constitutes a threat to security.

4. The Penal Code is applied to Omani nationals who are implicated and they are forbidden to carry out any media activities or incitement in the future.

Response to question three:

1. Since 15 February 2009, Oman has used the INTERPOL MIND system at all land, sea and air ports. That system is designed to detect lost and stolen passports and is an effective counter-terrorism tool.

2. Personnel at all official ports use special equipment to detect forged passports.

3. All staff at official ports take special courses in the detection of stolen and forged passports and travel documents.

Response to question four:

Oman is making numerous efforts to strengthen dialogue and extend understanding between civilizations by means of the following:

1. It takes part in relevant international seminars and conferences, the most recent of which was the Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue that was held in October 2009.

2. It has established a number of chairs in distinguished international universities, named in honour of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, as set forth below:

(a) Cambridge University, United Kingdom: His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Professorship of Modern Arabic Studies;

(b) Al al-Bayt University, Jordan, Chair of the Oman Study Unit;

(c) NED University for Engineering and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan, Sultan Qaboos Chair in information technology;

(d) NED University for Engineering and Technology, Karachi, Pakistan, Sultan Qaboos Chair in Information Technology;

(e) Georgetown University, United States of America, Sultan of Oman Professorship of Arabic and Islamic Literature;

(f) Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain, Sultan Qaboos Academic Chair in Desert Agriculture;

(g) Melbourne University, Australia, Sultan of Oman Chair in Arab and Islamic Studies;

(h) Leiden University, the Netherlands, Sultan of Oman Chair of Oriental Studies;

(i) Utrecht University, the Netherlands, Sultan Qaboos Chair of Quantitative Water Management;

(j) Beijing University, China, Sultan Qaboos Chair for Arabic Language Studies.

3. Support is provided to the Russian State Library, Moscow, in the form of the Sultanate of Oman collection.

4. The media is directed to disseminate tolerant and moderate views and is not permitted to broadcast any programmes that promote dissension between sects and religions.

5. The Institute for Shariah Studies in Muscat hosts non-Muslim students from foreign institutions for extensive periods while they conduct in-depth studies on Islam.

6. The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs publishes a quarterly magazine called *tasamuh* (tolerance), which aims to promote tolerance and dialogue. The

Sultanate also takes part in any international activity that seeks to further rapprochement between peoples and cultures.

Response to question five:

Oman is undertaking a set of measures and religious approaches that aim to prevent extremists from taking office in educational, cultural and religious institutions. Those measures include the following:

1. The adoption of a standardized religious approach that encourages moderation and tolerance for other community sects and religions and does not condone the stirring up of religious or sectarian strife.

2. Strict Government supervision of religious education institutes and continual review of their curriculums to bring them into line with contemporary requirements.

3. Careful selection and security vetting of mosque preachers, who are given regular guidelines.

4. No religious addresses, lectures or studies may be delivered or carried out without official approval from the relevant body.

5. Local newspapers and magazines publish articles by prominent scholars and thinkers who are known to be moderate and make clear the dangers of bigotry.

6. Media presenters of religious programmes are carefully selected and such programmes are strictly supervised, and reviewed and evaluated before being approved.

7. The Grand Mufti of Oman issues many edicts, all of which reject violence and call for unity and harmony between all sectors of society, in accordance with orthodox Islamic procedure.

8. Counselling programmes are provided for absolute extremists, with a view to their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Response to question six:

The official authorities in Oman are taking action to implement all the measures set forth in Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), in accordance with the general tenor of the Basic Law of the State, and in a manner that is consistent with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee-related law, as was affirmed in the United States Department of State 2009 Report on International Religious Freedom, which commended Oman for its respect for the principal of confessional freedom and its respect for religion. The Omani Basic Law prohibits discrimination based on religion and provides for the freedom to practise religious rites as long as doing so does not disrupt public order. The report states that Government policies contributed to the generally free practice of religion, within defined parameters, and that there were no reports of societal abuses among Omani nationals or foreign residents.